CARNIVAL- 1940

Aiken, S. C., Standard & Review
July 3, 1940

Negroes Plan For Annual Unique Celebration Of 4th

Unmindful of War, Plans Go Forward For 60th Independnce Day Celebration at Bettis Academy

As Americans plan the 164th anniversary of their Independence Day, figuratively, they see tanks on the border, airplanes in the skies, with newspaper stories of foreign countries absorbing their weaker neighbors.

Quite a different spectacle will greet the celebrants at Bettis Academy when Independence Day dawns Thursday. Here the Negroes will gather from miles around to parade their improvised tools of War. While foreign nations spread a smoke screen of death and destruction, the colored population of this section will pass the day in their annual celebration. And probably nowhere can a stranger celebration of Independence Day be found than the queer custom of drum beating and primitive dancing with wooden guns which takes place every Fourth of July at the school for Negro youth on the border of Aiken and Edgefield counties.

The celebration dates back 59 years to the foundation of the school. A. W. Nicholson, venerable president of the academy who has been connected with the school for 56 years, says that the first celebration was held on July 4, 1881. The celebration started at a time when Negroes were not allowed to beat drums and hence Rev. Alexander Bettis founder of the school went to the officers of the county and asked permission for them to beat drums on that particular day promising that there would be no demonstration and that the whole celebration would be peaceable, a characteristic which has always marked these celebrations.

On that day a group of interested colored people met at the place where Bettis Academy now stands to take definite steps toward the establishment of an institution of learning for Negro boys and girls. Rev. Alexander Bettis, was the moving spirit in that first meeting. The large group of his people who where present rallied to him and a beginning was made toward the establishment of Bettis Academy. The beating of drums and other forms of amusement proclaimed the glad news that the colored people would soon have a school of their very own, where their sons and daughters could be educated. Ever since that first July 4th celebration, the colored people have continued to assemble at Bettis Academy each year on July 4.

When the celebrations were first held officers were afraid to allow the Negroes to use guns for their drills and so they used sticks. Those taking part in the primitive dances and drills now use guns made from wood.

The whole campus assumes a carnival atmosphere for the event. Booths where fried fish, ice cream lemonade, barbecue, jewelry, balloons and other carnival gadgets are on sale. The photographer who produces a finished picture on the spot, is kept busy.

The celebration gets underway early in the morning usually with a baseball game. By early afternon the various eating places have been visited, gallons of pink lemonade have been imbibed, the drill teams have been organized and have gone through their final practice on the campus (the teams have been practicing nightly over the counties for weeks) and are now ready for the drills and dancing. All day the drums boom the same monotonous sound. And now for the drills. Led by a captain and with two drummers, one bass and one snare drummer, they march with their wooden guns—some painted and some unpainted on their shoulders. The drills remind one of the primitive dances of Africa where the tom-tom calls the native to a religious festival which often inaugurates a war on a neighboring tribe.

The usual "Sunday best" is the dress but they are there in all sorts of clothes from evening dress to overalls. Men wear white and others wear discarded army uniforms.

A big black policeman wearing an official looking cap and badge and carrying a club preserves order and keeps the traffic moving. Sheriff Howard and his deputies are always on hand but there is never anything for them to do except watch the crowds.

President Nicholson sits on the porch of his modest two-story home and chats with all who visit him. He says that the celebration is not sponsored by the school but it is always held on the campus.

His main interest in life is the improvement and development of his school where more than 500 boys and girls are given training each year.

Each year the crowd seems to increase. The number has been variously estimated at from 5,000 to 15,000 some years. A thousand or more come from the state of Georgia. Many come from other states, but the majority of the people come from Western Carolina. The venders of food, soft drinks, ice cream and other things do a rushing business throughout the day.

Many white people come to witness the celebration each year. They seem to enjoy the occasion.

Mobile, Ala. Press
February 4, 1940

Parade And Dance Will Top Colored Carnival Program

'King' Arrives Today; 80-Piece Band From Tuskegee Institute Will Play

Alex Herman, colored insurance man, will rule as Elexis I over Mobile's colored carnival celebration. The colored king will arrive on his royal yacht at the foot of Elmira Street at 4 o'clock this afternoon according to the Colored Carnival Association.

Immediately after his arrival, Elexis will be escorted to the Colored Community Center, where his queen, Aline Jenkins, and court will await him at a carnival tea.

Hostesses to the royal party at the tea will be Y. W. C. A. officials: Lois Chandler, Deloris Dickerson, Vivian Pearson and Juanita Rice, assisted by nine girls from Mobile Branch Junior College.

Other features of the celebration planned by the Colored Carnival Association include the coronation of the queen, Monday night at 9 o'clock, in the auditorium of the Community Center, followed by the coronation dance, with music by the Alabama State Teachers' College "Collegians."

Educators To Visit

Visitors, in response to personal invitations sent throughout the state, are beginning to arrive. Expected are Dr. H. Council Trenholm, president of Alabama State Teachers' College at Montgomery, and Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute.

The parade Tuesday will include floats, decorated automobiles, decorated bicycles, marching groups and individual maskers.

According to Dr. S. A. Herman, secretary of the association, the total amount of priezs to be awarded is $100, divided as follows:

For floats: first prize, $20; second prize, $15; third prize, $9.

For decorated automobiles: first prize, $15; second prize, $10; third prize, $5.

For decorated bicycles: first prize, $4; second prize, $2; third prize, $1.

For marching groups: first prize, $7; second prize, $4; third prize, $2.

For individual maskers: first prize, $3; second prize, $2; third prize, $1.

'Mayor' To Be Elected

A "mayor of colored Mobile" will be elected by popular ballot from a group of five nominees including Samuel Besteda, R. R. Perry, William Howard, John Pope and Wilmer Owens. Balloting in the lobby of the Colored Community Center will close at 2 o'clock 'this afternoon. Results of the election will be announced at the carnival tea.

Music for the parade Tuesday will be furnished by the 80-piece band from Tuskegee Institute, the 56-piece band from Alabama State Teachers' College, the 35-piece band from St. Peter Claver School, and the drum, bugle and fife corps from Heart of Mary School.

Immediately after the parade there will be a "double-rush" dance for students in the Community Center auditorium, with music by orchestras from Alabama State Tteachers College and Tuskegee Institute. From 5 to 7 o'clock alumni of Alabama State Teachers' College will hold open house for visitors and

Mobile, Ala. Press
February 1, 1940

COLORED KING TO ARRIVE ON SUNDAY

Royal Barge Will Dock At Foot of Texas Street; Other Fetes Planned

Elexis I, king of the colored carnival, will arrive on the royal yacht at the foot of Texas Street, at 4 p.m. Sunday, according to officials of the Colored Carnival Association.

Immediately after his arrival Elexis I will be carried to the Colored Community Center where his queen and court await him at an annual carnival tea.

Other features of the celebration planned by the Colored Carnival Association include the coronation of the queen Monday night at 9 p.m. in the auditorium of the Colored Community Center. Music for the dance following the coronation will be furnished by the Alabama State Teachers' College Orchestra.

Many Visitors Coming

Many colored people from Alabama and neighboring states have accepted invitations to visit Mobile for Mardi Gras.

The parade Tuesday will include floats, decorated automobiles, marching groups and individual maskers competing for prizes in each group.

The total amount of prizes to be awarded is $100, according to Dr. S. A. Herman, secretary of the association.

A mayor of colored Mobile will be elected by ballot from a group of five nominees, including Samuel Besteda, R. R. Perry, Wilmer Howard, John Pope and Wilmer Owens. It will be his duty to present the 'keys of colored Mobile" to the king and to otherwise officiate during the festivities. The "election" will be an annual feature of carnival, it is said.

Deadline To Enter Parade

Entries for the parade may be registered as late as 6 p.m. February 5 with E. S. Peters, at the Community Center.

Music for the parade will be furnished by the bands from Tuskegee Institute, Alabama State Teachers' College, St. Peter Claver School and Heart of Mary School.

The dance Tuesday night will begin at 9 p.m. at the Community Center and will have music by the Tuskegee Institute Orchestra.

Any information about the colored carnival celebration may be secured at the Colored Community Center, its headquarters.

Dr. W. L. Russell is president of the association and H. R. Williams is chairman of the publicity committee.

Colored residents having available rooms for carnival visitors are asked to contact Joseph Perres, 304 South Lawrence Street.

Last-minute donations may be made to C. T. McKinnis, 600 St. Francis Street.

Memphis Tenn Com'rcial Appeal
March 31, 1940

COTTON MAKERS PLAN THIS YEAR'S JUBILEE

Negro Phase Of Carniva Changes Administration

Changes in the administration o the Memphis Cotton Makers Jubilee, negro phase of the Memphi Cotton Carnival, were announced yesterday by Nat Williams, publicity director.

The committee headed by Dr. R. D. Venson, originator and present chairman of the jubilee, has obtained a charter of incorporation for the show, with Clifton Satterfield, secretary; Dr. J. J. Range treasurer; Robert Wright and E. F Hayes, vice chairmen, and Dr. B F. McCleave, vice comptroller.

Royalty To Be Chosen

Royalty for the jubilee edition of the annual Cotton Carnival will be chosen from candidates sponsored by business firms and social organizations, rather than through sale of tickets by candidates as in the past.

The coronation ceremony and fashion show will be held in Booker T. Washington Stadium, instead of in Handy Park, previously the scene of the outdoor climax to the four-day festival, which attracts many white spectators.

Plan Street Pageant

To tie the jubilee in with Beale, the street where the birth-cry of the blues was wailed through the throats of battered trumpets in the days when W. C. Handy was a Memphis man, the committee plans a street pageant on the night of the Grand Jubilee Parade. Singers, dancers and other entertainers will present the pageant before a reviewing stand in Handy Park.

Surrounding towns have been asked to select "princesses" to send to the jubilee. Nominations for the king and queen will close April 15. Winners will be named May 6.

Memphis Tenn Com'rcial Appeal
April 17, 1940

'Haughty Hattie,' Beale Queen, Stays 'Hitched' To 'Half Pint

By DAVE M'CONNELL

Hattie (Haughty) Warren, queen of the 1939 negro Cotton Jubilee, lost her Chancery Court divorce action yesterday against Prof. William H. (Half Pint) Warren, leader of the Beale Street "War Is Din League."

She lost when a jury found that "Half Pint" had not been cruel and inhuman in his treatment of "Haughty Hattie." She had charged he struck her and made life "unbearable."

Beale Society There

The trial produced the cream of Beale Street negro society. And Hattie was described as "living in a mansion with a wardrobe like Bry's."

Perhaps the attitude of the "War Is Din League" membership toward their leader's wife was best described by aging Aunt Bird Givens, self-styled Arkansas reared negro who "just never had a chance to be educated."

"We uns called her Haughty Hattie," Aunt Bird said. "Ever since she was queen, she put on airs."

Hattie formerly was private secretary to the league professor, but following her marriage and subsequent election as Beale Street's queen, she "had everything the heart could wish," according to Aunt Bird.

Had Everything To Eat

"She had cakes and custards chickens and geese and hams—and oh, Lord yes, chitterlings," Aunt Bird observed. The way she described Hattie's kitchen larder put a prelunch edge on appetites.

Plainly impressed at the manner in which Hattie had lived, Aunt Bird added: "She didn't even have to have a match to light the stove with. Just turned it on. And her closet, Lord, it looked like Bry's."

"The bargain basement?" Kenneth Rayner, attorney representing the professor, asked.

"Nope," answered Aunt Bird, "the upstairs where they have all the fine clothes."

Pray At Meetings

On cross examination, Aunt Bird was asked what was done at the "War Is Din" meetings.

"We pray," she explained simply. "We pray and talk to the Father. You see, nothing belongs to you. Even your breath (she pointed to R. I. Moore, attorney for Hattie) doesn't belong to you. It just was lent by Him."

Chancellor Swepston interrupted to observe to Mr. Moore: "I think she's got you there."

"Strut Like a Turkey"

In arguing to the jury, Mr. Rayner described Hattie as "strutting like a two-year-old turkey cock" when she was jubilee queen.

"Do you believe this half pint husband was cruel and beat this No. 10 size woman?" he asked. As he spoke he gestured at Professor Warren, a mite of a negro, then at Hattie, quivering in a queenly rage.

The jury returned a verdict that there was no evidence of cruel and inhuman treatment and Chancellor Swepston dismissed the case.

1940 COTTON JUBILEE SEEKS BEAUTY QUEEN

Tennessee, Arkansas And Mississippi To Canvass Towns For Girl

By JAMES PURDY

MEMPHIS, April 19 — A beauty contest to select the Sepia Venus of the Mid-South was announced this week by the Memphis Cotton Makers Jubilee Committee, headed by Dr R. Q. Venson, chairman.

The contest will be conducted in more than twenty-two towns in Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee. Each town has already selected a committee of leading citizens to attend the 1940 celebration.

The contest opened April 10 and will close with a grand finale to be staged in Memphis on the night of May 15. The occasion will be the coronation of the Jubilee King and Queen for 1940. There will be a mammoth out-door fashion revue depicting the jubilee theme, "King Cotton in the world of tomorrow."

The beauty contest will be the first of its kind ever held in the deep south. The most beautiful girl in the tri-states will be sought. Towns asked to select contestants and send in their pictures are Helena, Little Rock, Pine Bluff, Hot Springs, Blytheville, Osceola, Forrest City, Marianna; Mississippi Clarksdale, Greenwood, Greenville Mound Bayou, and Indianola, Tupelo; Dyersburg, Memphis, Ripley Whitesville, Brownsville, Bolivar Somerville and Humboldt.

Nashville, Tenn. Banner
May 16, 1940

Beale Street Crowns King, Gives World 'The Wham.' Hot Dance

Memphis, Tenn., May 16—(AP)—Beale Street—Negro capital of the South—had a new king today, a bulky, straight-backed school teacher with the dignified demeanor of a voodoo god.

Out of his coronation last night the world got a new, hot dance, "The Wham."

King George W. Hendrson, a business college president, and his queen, Vinella Spears, a cafe operator, were crowned as highlight of the Negroes' own version of cotton carnival.

The annual five-day celebration honoring "king cotton" enters its third festive day today, with the "jesters' jamboree" providing the highlight of the program. Thousands will gather in Court Square to dance in the streets in a spectacular mass syncopation.

The "jesters' jamboree" is to the white folks what last night's sumptuous, open-air dance-fest was to the Negroes.

King George, garbed in raiments of regal splendor, and Queen Vinella, gowned in simmering white, rode a golden chariot drawn by two dappled grey steeds.

In a prolific round of speech-making, they proclaimed a reign of merry-making to be started by "The Wham." S m o k e y music floated over Booker T. Washington Stadium, weird voodoo doctors cut mystic capers and the teeming Negro audience began to dance. (The only hitch—the goat slated for the mock voodoo sacrifice refused to cooperate.) The celebration continued in private parties all night.

A feature of today's program was tours for visitors to plantations in Arkansas and Mississippi and to industrial plants in the vicinity of Memphis.

Claude Crawford, Memphis cotton man, is king of cotton carnival, and Lida Willey is queen.

Marianne Holcomb, 17, a blue-eyed blond, was crowned "Miss Dixie" in a beauty contest held annually in connection with the carnival. She is from Clarksdale, Miss.

NEW ROYAL BARGE TO BE READY FOR ZULU KING'S FETE

James Pearson

Monarch to Board Boat on Tuesday Morning for Trip to City

2-5-40

New Orleans Sun

The Zulu king will enter New Orleans Tuesday morning on a new royal barge, Charles J. Fisher, vice-president and parade director of the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club, said Sunday.

The Clara Bell, on which Zulu kings had floated to New Orleans for 18 years, sank in the Pearl river last November 21, on the same day that John L. Metoyer for many years leader of the negro Cornival organization, died in New Orleans, Fisher said.

Manuel Bernard, Zulu king, and his retinue will board the royal barge at 9 a. m. at Jefferson Davis parkway, and, after a trip down the New Basin canal, will disembark at 9:30 a. m. at South Claiborne avenue.

From that point, the Zulu king will lead his parade by a circuitous route to the undertaking company at 2128 Jackson avenue, where he will receive the key to Zululand and will greet his queen.

The parade will continue its winding course to Perdido and Saratoga streets, where it will disband.

Grand marshal of the parade is George Wilkinson, with Joseph Smith, Jr., Leory Broussard, Theodore Haskin, Monroe Brown, Ed Hill and Harry Delsoi his aids.

Noah White is chief duke, and Elijah Smith, Clifford Thomas, James Russell, Andrew Henry, Jr., and Theodore Lamb his chief aids. Arthur Carter, Jr., is chief of police, with Ernest Young, Joseph Matthew, Eli Johnson, Ernest Young and James B. Hilton his assistants. Foster Sair will have charge of the king's float.

Mardi Gras Invitations Accepted

MOBILE, Ala., Feb. 1—(Special)—Practically all of the more than two hundred formal invitations mailed by the Colored Carnival Association to leaders in towns, cities and communities throughout the State, to attend the Mardi Gras celebration, to be held here under the asociation's auspices beginning February 5, have been accepted, it was announced Thursday by the publicity committee of which H. R. Williams is chairman.

Among those from whom acceptances have already been received, it was stated, are: Dr. H. Council Trenholm, president of the State Teachers' College at Montgomery, and Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute.

Huntsville, Ala., Times
February 6, 1940

Mobile Joyful At Mardi Gras

MOBILE, Ala., Feb. 6 (AP)—With practically all business shut down, Mobile, "mother of mystics," swung into another celebration of Mardi Gras today.

Heartened by sunshine which broke through clouds that had threatened, but not halted earlier parades, thousands, many of them masked, milled through downtown streets in one of the merriest carnivals ever celebrated here.

Headed by King Felix III, a series of pageants opened today. Drawing most attention were those of Knights of Revelry and the Comic Cowboys.

Accompanied by the 80-piece Tuskegee Institute band and the band of the Alabama State Teachers' Institute, King Elexis I, negro carnival ruler, will stage his parade.

The celebration will close tonight with the parade and ball of Order of Myths and numerous other dances throughout the city

April 11, 1940

COMMITTEE FORMED FOR NEGRO CARNIVAL

TriStates Group Will Help Cotton Event

Formation of a Jubilee Committee to engage the active co-operation of negro communities in the TriStates for the 1940 Memphis Cotton Makers Jubilee was announced yesterday by Dr. R. Q. Venson, committee chairman.

Leading negro citizens in 22 of the towns adjacent to Memphis were selected by their mayors to form the Jubilee Committee. They will assist the Jubilee organization in promoting the use of cotton in their sections and offering an avenue of expression annually through the Cotton Makers Jubilee to thousands of negroes in the Memphis area. Each community chairman will select a committee to choose a princess to ride on the Jubilee Parade floats and to participate in the beauty contest held at Booker T. Washington Stadium, the night of May 15.

Chairmen announced by Dr. Venson are: Arkansas—Forrest City, Dr. J. E. Burke, dentist; Helena, Dr. H. H. Proffitt, dentist; Osceola, Prof. Charles Hicks, school principal; Blytheville, Prof. W. C. Barrabin, county agent; Marianna, Prof. C. H. Douglass, school principel; Little Rock, Pine Bluff and Hot Springs, A. J. Shields, publisher, Arkansas World newspaper.

Mississippi — Clarksdale, Julius E. Daugherty, county agent; Mound Bayou, Mayor Benjamin Green; Greenville, Dr. L. DeLaine, physician; Indianola, A. R. Walker, insurance man; Greenwood, Prof. A. D. Morant, county agent.

Tennessee—Brownsville, C. A. Rawls, undertaker; Jackson, Dave Clark, business man; Humboldt, Prof. L. R. Jeffries, school principal; Dyersburg, Charles Futell,

MEMPHIANS INCORPORATE COTTON MAKERS' JUBILEE

MEMPHIS, March 7—(By James H. Purdy Jr., for ANP)—Last month a charter was granted to the incorporators of the Cotton Makers jubilee, the Negro branch of the Cotton carnival. For the first time during its five-year existence the jubilee committee becomes a permanent organization. The incorporators were: Dr. R. O. Venson, business man; Bolivar, G. W. Wells, undertaker, and Prof. Lorenzo Miller, principal; Bolivar County Training School; Whiteville, Prof. J. H. White, principal of Allen White Training School.

Dr. J. [illegible] Rainer, Dr. B. F. McCleaves, Clinton Satterfield, Nat D. Williams and Robert Wright.

Dr. R. Venson, chairman, announced at a meeting of the board of directors and incorporators the theme of the 1940 offering "King Cotton in the World of Tomorrow."

The selection of the commitees to direct the various phases of the jubilee program was completed in the Friday night's meeting. Dr. B. F. McCleave and Mrs. M. S. Stuart were chosen to direct the all-important King and Queen selection committee which has the duty of choosing the adult king and queen of the jubilee. Other committee heads and members were chosen.

The Memphis Cotton Makers jubilee has received more national publicity than any other Negro celebration in the country during the five years of its presentations.

Memphians On Rampage For Cotton Carnival

Daily Worker 4-19-40

By NAT D. WILLIAMS

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—(S N S)—"Who is running for Jubilee king and queen this year?" is the question going the rounds of the town these days, as Cotton Carnival time comes around and visions return of massed crowds, balls and pageantry.

The answer to the question is in the hands of a select group of men and women, nominees for 1940 Jubilee royalty, who are quietly campaigning for the honor of wielding the sceptre during the four days of jolity planned for May 14th through the 18th.

Dr. R. Q. Venson's Jubilee subcommittee, the King Selection and Queen Selection committees, announce that the picture and life stories of the six women and three candidates will appear this weekend in all the papers, thus enabling the public to know who is aspiring, and determine whom it favors.

The greatest show in the history of the celebration has been planned for the entertainment of the 1940 Jubilee King and Queen and their subjects.

The first grand feature, as usual, will be the mammoth and lavishly decorated floats which climax the celebration during the Grand Jubilee parade which traverse the colored business section of Memphis on the last Friday night of the presentation.

Plans for more than thirty floats depicting the 1940 theme, "King Cotton in the World of Tomorrow," are in the making.

The most colorful feature of the Jubilee, the Coronation of the King and Queen, usually staged in Handy's Square, will be elaborated on this year. Not only will costumed entertainers and 'big-wig' officials welcome the Jubilee royalty at the spot named in honor of the 'Blues' king, but the ceremonies will be continued in Booker T. Washington Stadium. At that time a novel revue will be staged, in which original costumes will be modelled by some of the prettiest girls in the Tri-States giving their ideas of what discriminating women will wear in the world of tomorrow.

The revue has been named "King Cotton's Promenade." The Jubilee King and Queen will be present, seated on a specially designed throne. The models will do their pirouettes and turns on top of a specially constructed stage, built like a huge bale of cotton, out of which the girls will emerge.

A special new dance creation, the Jubilee Wham, will be staged with a mixed chorus of more than forty male and female dancers. Each year the Jubilee program committee presents a new dance in honor of the King and Queen. Each year the dance has attracted wide attention.

A beauty contest will also be staged. More than 21 Tri-States towns and cities have been visited by members of the Jubilee committee, and in each community groups of leading colored citizens

have been formed for the purpose of selecting the girls to take par in the beauty contest.

Cash prizes will be awarded along with trophies and cups. The young woman adjudged the most beautiful will be crowned 'The Sepia Venus of the Mid-South,' and be eligible for a trip to some northern or eastern city, along with such other honors and recognition as will go with such distinction.

Other features of the celebration will be the children's parade and coronation, headed by Mrs. R. Q. Venson, Prof. Edwin C. Jones, principal of LaRose School, and Mr. Samuel McAnulty of the Recreation Department of Memphis.

Memphis, Tenn., Comercial Appeal
May 18, 1940

Beale Rocks With Rhythm As Parade Climaxes Jubilee

By WARD ARCHER

A three-quarters moon slanted over the Silk Hair and Jackies Hotel across from Handy's Park last night and underneath Beale Street rocked with jubilee rhythm and twinkled in the tropical color of parade floats.

It was the Grand Parade of the Cotton Makers Jubilee, negro division of the Cotton Carnival, and negroes of Memphis and from many miles around swarmed the sidelines to watch the climax of their biggest celebration.

School Float Wins

Floats representing Memphis organizations and towns of the Tri-States competed for the top prize, which was won by Booker T. Washington High School's novel creation of "Cotton Ice Cream," an idea for the "World of Tomorrow" them of the jubilee.

Second prize went to the Dyersburg, Tenn., float, entitled "The Heart of West Tennessee," and honorable mention was awarded to floats from Osceola, Ark., and Greenville, Miss. Judges were Dr. S. M. Roulhac, chairman, Rose Branch and J. S. Phelix.

The versatile Nat Williams, Beale Street maestro of song and speeches, was master of ceremonies at the microphone in the Handy's Park reviewing stand. Waiting for the parade, which naturally was a little late, he entertained the crowd with remarks about how he blushes "deep purple," and led a special group of singers in a "wham" version of "I'm in the Mood," calculated to get the bystanders in the right mood for any parade.

Following the Drum and Bugle Corps which led off the parade, the king and queen, Prof. George Henderson and Vinella Spears, approached in their horse-drawn coach, dismounted and took places in the reviewing stand.

Congratulated By Mayor

Over the microphone, Queen Vinella said, "I'm very glad to be queen for 1940. I like the combination." And she looked pointedly at her professor-king.

Mayor Chandler, who stepepd to the platform during an interval in the floats, said:

"It is a happy occasion for the citizens of Memphis, regardless of faith, creed or race . . . We congratulate you progressive folks of Beale Street on this, your greatest carnival, and we wish you an even bigger and better celebration next year."

Atlanta, Ga. Journal
June 16, 1940

Rhododendron Fete Begins in Asheville

Street Carnivals, Dozens of Orchestras and Indian Exhibitions Feature Carolina Event

By RUTH RAINE

That gala occasion, the Thirteenth Annual Rhododendron Festival of Asheville, N. C., about which we've been talking for weeks via radio, is now in full swing, sponsors from ten Southern states having arrived in the "Land of the Sky" this very morning to be officially welcomed on this, the opening day. The festival will last all this week terminating Saturday evening at the Mirth Ball, when the King and Queen of Mirth will be crowned before the Court at the Carolina Pavilion.

This week officially ushers in the summer season for Carolina's popular vacationland. The spectacular growth of beautiful rhododendron is at its height and will present a scene of riotous color to the thousands of visitors. Tours will be held all during Sunday to Craggy Rhododendron Gardens, Mount Pisgah and the Great Smoky Mountain National Park, where the pink blossoms literally blanket the mountain slopes. A presentation of southern Negro spirituals will be a feature of the evening in the City Auditorium.

On Monday, tours to floral displays will continue and during the entire day there will be carnival rides at Battery Park Hill, this site also to be the scene of a group of native Cherokee Indians at work and play. An art exhibit will be held by local artists in the City Hall and during the afternoon motor boat races will be held at Beaver Lake, while high trapeze acts at Pack Square, in the center of town, will thrill spectators. The evening winds up with the Grand Ball and Public Investiture of the Rhododendron Royal Brigade of Guards.

Tuesday features the Children's Parade and tours by the French Broad River Garden Club. In the evening "Foxfire," a dramatic play of Carolina history, will be presented at the City Auditorium. Wednesday, the Dog and Pet Parade presents a different angle. Tours and high trapeze acts will continue, of course, all during the day. Wednesday marks the Rhododendron Grand Ball, featuring the coronation of the King and Queen and the presentation of the Southern States sponsors.

The Grand Parade and evening pageant will feature Thursday's events, while on Friday an appealing sight will be the Negro Baby Parade, with pickaninnies dressed in their best for your approval. A thrilling spectacle on this day will be the arrival of some 100 planes over the city for the Carolina Aero Meet, landing at the Asheville-Hendersonville Airport.

Hundreds of bands have been imported for the festive week and Friday afternoon marks a concert and series of drills in massed formation at the Memorial Stadium. Following the dinner hour, there will be an Illuminated Festive Parade, honoring representatives of Western North Carolina cities and later in the evening, these personages will be presented to the King and Queen at the "Land of the Sky" Grand Ball.

Saturday, the crowning feature will be the Mirth Ball, and the day, as are the others, will be spotlighted by continual tours to points of scenic beauty as well as exhibitions and amusements in town.

Southwestern Adventists Hold 4th Biennial

Prominent Officers Figure As Speakers In Conference Meet

DALLAS, Texas—Opened with a stiring sermon by the Elder J. Gresham Dasent of New Orleans secretary of the department, the fourth biennial camp meeting and youth's congress of the Southwestern Union Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists was held here August 17-24 at Wheatley Public School.

The youth conference scheduled to be held August 17-19 gained such impetus in its opening days that it was extended two extra sessions. Topics discussed included: What Future Do Our Young People Have If Not Preachers or Teachers; Music; Recreation; Marriage; Dress and Deportment, etc.

CONFERENCE OFFICERS PRESENT

Among those appearing as guest speakers were the following white officers of the General Conference: Elder W. A. Butler and Elder J. J. Strahle, associate secretaries of the Home Missionary and Publishing Departments of the General Conference. Elder C. Lester Bond, associate secretary of the Missionary Volunteer Department and Elder W. A. Scharffenberg of China.

Elder R. L. Benton, president and his official staff were present from the Southwestern Union Conference. Prof. J. L. Moran, president of Oakwood Junior College and the presidents of the four local conferences which include Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas and Texico (West Texas and Mexico).

Medical, evangelistic, educational and publishing phases of the work were given careful consideration during the course of the camp meeting. Special sermons were preached each night and leaders expressed gratification over large attendances present from the city.

ADVENTIST END LARGEST MEETING IN LOS ANGELES

LOS ANGELES, Calif.—(ANP)—The largest camp meeting in the world held annually by the Southern California Seventh-day Adventists on their Lynwood permanent camp ground, closed its ten-day session last week with maximum attendances reaching 12,000 and including hundreds of Negro members of the denomination. Scores camped in the tent "city" of 900 family tents.

This year's encampment was marked by a spirit of interracial goodwill and Christian fellowship. One of the principal speakers at this great gathering was the Rev. Peterson of Washington, D. C., and newly appointed pastor of the Wadsworth church of Los Angeles. On the night that Rev. Peterson addressed the mammoth audience it set spellbound from the time he sang "The Crucifixion" at the beginning of his discourse until the benediction was pronounced. No speaker in the history of these camp meetings was so warmly received as was Rev. Peterson, a local newspaper reported.

Other colored ministers in prominence at this convocation were: Revs. R.B. Bontemps, pastor of the Watts Church of Los Angeles; J. M. Campbell, pastor in Monrovia; and Owen A. Troy, pastor of the Sunsen Avenue Church of Pasadena, Revs. N. Banks, J. W. Allison and D. Black of the Southeastern California conference were in attendance part of the time.

An outstanding musical feature of the gathering was the music presented by the Sunset Spiritual singers under the direction of Ruby Bontemps Troy. The Pasadena singing grodp made two appeearances as did also the Wadsworth Harmelodians under the direction of Mrs. Vonnie Matthews.

Negro-White Adventists Camp Side by Side

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12,000 Interracial Adventists Encamp At California Meet

LOS ANGELES, Calif. (ANP)—Scores of white and colored members of the Southern California Seventh-Day Adventists encamped here last week in the tent "city" of 900 family tents in what has been described as the largest meeting in the world. Attendance figures are reported to have reached 12,000.

This year's encampment was marked by a spirit of interracial goodwill and Christian fellowship. One of the principal speakers at the gathering was the Rev. Peterson of Washington, D. C., newly-elected pastor of the Wadsworth Church of Los Angeles. One of the local newspapers reported no speaker in the history of these meeting has been more warmly received.

Other colored ministers figuring prominently were the Revs. R. B. Bontemps, pastor of Watts Church of Los Angeles; J. M. Campbell of Monrovia, Liberia; and Owen A. Troy of Pasadena.

Reaching And Maintaing The American Way Of Living Is Problem Of Masses Of Negroes

New York Sun
SEP 28 1940

JACKSON, Miss. — "The one great problem confronting the masses of Negroes in America today is that of reaching and maintaining the American standard of living. Upon the immediate solution of this problem will depend our future for a hundred years," declared the Rev. Harry V. Richardson, Chaplain of Tuskegee Institute, addressing the Tri-State Convention of the AME Church in session at Campbell College. He was speaking on "The Problem of the Rural Church."

Rev. Richardson stated that the Negro church is preponderantly a rural church. More than one-half of colored Christians are country folk, and nearly two-thirds of colored congregations are rural. Yet for this great proportion of their membership, our national denominations do not take the slightest sign of a program. "Some do not even have good intentions," he said.

"What a grand opportunity for service to the race at a time when it is sorely needed. We cannot permit it to pass unused."

New York Sun
SEP 29 1940

Speaking of the problems of rural religion, Rev. Richardson said that the country church was suffering from at least three pressing needs: first of all, resident pastors who live among the people, properly trained and adequately supported financially; secondly, a rearranging of church areas so that church buildings could be accessible to the people of both for worship and for community activities; and last but by no means least, a change in our attitude toward rural work. On this last point he said. "We honor the missionaries to foreign fields, but we almost ignore the workers in the home field, the rural preachers; we send our best trained workers to the foreign field, but we send our most ignorant and poorly trained workers to the country."

"An enlightened program of rural action intelligently directed and carried through on a national scale would be the greatest boon our people could enjoy at the present time," he said. "Our national bodies must act quickly if they hope to hold the allegiance of their rural folk."

SEP 29 1940

For the past several years Rev. Richardson has vigorously espoused the cause of the rural church. He has literally become its champion. In an interview after his address he stated that several Negro denominations are beginning to give thought to the rural problem. Under the leadership of the Federal Council of Church some constructive work is being planned. He is hopeful that effective results Columbia University.

BISHOP ASKS FOR TRAINED MINISTRY

Courier Pittsburgh Pa.
OCT 26 1940

PORT GIBSON, Miss., Oct. 24— Bishop S. L. Greene in a special address to the Mississippi Conference convened here in St. Peters A.M.E. church, with more than 500 ministers and lay workers assembled for a five-day conclave, made known the panacea for our degeneration in church administration.

The bishop said, in part, "Our rural situation is deplorable; it is liking for something and that something is a better trained ministry. We must give more attention to the training of our ministry, or expect a greater degeneration than is now apparent to many."

He closed his address with a stirring appeal for Greater Lampton Theological Seminary and School of Religion, located in Jackson, Miss.

The bishop and conference were feted in a banquet given by the pastor, Rev. L. G. Moore and members. Thursday will be given to the lay movement supervised by Mayor B. A. Green of Mound Bayou at which time $500 is expected to be raised. The lay rally will close Thursday night with a special address delivered by Dr. S. L. Greene Jr., president of Campbell college. Friday the conference will hear Mrs. S. L. Greene, supervisor of missions in the 8th Episcopal district, on "Our Accomplishments in Foreign Fields." The conference will close Sunday with the reading of the appointments to more than 300 ministers and lay workers. The conference is composed of three presiding elders and supervised by Revs. S. S. Stephen, R. A. Scott and J. J. Molant.

AME Youth Conference In Richmond

More Than Fifty Delegates Registered

New York Age
NOV 16 1940

RICHMOND, Va. — More than fifty interested young people and adults were registered for the one-day conference of the Young People's Department of the Virginia Conference Branch, Woman's Mite Missionary Society held on Saturday, November 2, at Ebenezer AME Church, South Richmond, the Rev. L. M. Thompson, pastor.

The delegates represented Third Street Bethel, Grant Chapel, and Ebenezer AME Churches with the pastors in attendance. These included respectively, Revs. P. S. Moseley, Melvin Laws, and L. M. Thompson. The purpose of the conference as well as the work of the Young People's Department, was explained by the secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Mabel B. Young.

Officers of the day were as follows: Miss Luetta Tuppence of 3rd Street, Bethel, presiding; Misses Grace Law and Doris Paige, secretaries; Miss Dorethea Williams, pianist; Misses Luverne Belle, Charlotte Turner and Lois Jenkins, social secretaries; Miss Doris Garland, reporter; Mrs. C. G. N. Traynham, Miss Gladys Mobley, and Melvin Law, resolution committee; Milbert Paige, Emmanuel Belle and Melvin aw, registration committee.

The Welcome address was by Miss Catherine Cobbs of Ebenezer, with Miss Elizabeth Stovall of Grant Chapel giving the response. Miss Doris Paige of Ebenezer read a paper on a "Model Missionary Meeting."

Mrs. L. M. Thompson served as dean of the school of missions. The Mothers Pearls were in charge of Rev. L. M. Thompson; Allen Stars, Miss Myrtle Moseley and Mrs. Louella Thompson; Lee Circle and Young People's Auxiliary, Mrs. C. G. N. Traynham and Mrs. Carrie Baker Daniels; Adult group, Mesdames Emma Jones and Sylvia Stukes. Charlotte Twyman of Ebenezer discussed the subject "What is Missionary Work"; "Why Study Missions" was brought by Miss Myrtle Moseley. Miss Deloris Jenkins of Grant Chapel discussed "What Young People can do for Missions." An inspirational message was given by Rev. J. Arthur Young, presiding elder of the Richmond District.

The conference closed with a candlelight service conducted by the secretary-treasurer. Sponsors of the conference were, Mesdames Mabel B. Young, G. E. Roberts, L. M. Thompson, Grace Law, Sylvia Stukes, C. B. Daniels, C. G. N. Traynnam, Ruth Carver, Lottie Banks, Miss Doris Paige, Mrs. Ruby Scott, Mrs. Mary E. Brown Mrs. C. B. Cypress, Mrs. M. L. Carver, Miss C. B. Brown and Mrs. Armataine Funn.

Columbus, Ga. Ledger
November 10, 1940

Negro Ushers Plan For Christmas Party

The executive board of the Tri-City negro ushers association will meet at St. John's A. M. E. church this afternoon at 4:30 o'clock to make plans for the tenth annual Christmas party for aged colored people to be given at Spencer high school auditorium on Christmas Day.

The ushers' organization plans to give well filed bags and a Christmas dinner to the aged. Headquarters for the campaign for the party will be at the Ninth street branch Y. M. C. A. where donations wil be received on and after December 1, stated James M. C. Carter, president of the association.

Atlanta Ga Constitution
November 29, 1940

Negro Methodists Open Conference

Sessions of the annual Georgia conference of the Negro Methodist Episcopal church opened Wednesday at the West Mitchell street church and will continue through Sunday.

Approximately 60 preachers and lay delegates are attending from four cities which comprise the conference—Atlanta, Athens, Augusta and Elberton.

Bishop W. Y. Bell, who is presiding, reported the past year has been good from both a financial and spiritual standpoint. Today's session will consist of business session and a sermon by the Rev. L. S. White, of Houston, Texas.